

*This is in  
response to your  
question of last week  
JE*

11 September 1985

Memorandum for:

From:  FBIS/AG

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Pursuant to our telephone conversation on 9 September, I am enclosing the text of the 5 September Pravda article by Yu. Yakhontov warning West Germany of the potentially "calamitous" consequences for its security of FRG participation in the United States' Strategic Defense Initiative program. I am also enclosing for your examination a number of other recent Soviet media commentaries on SDI ostensibly addressed to West European audiences.

The Pravda article is clearly more threatening in tone than other recent commentaries on the SDI issue aimed at West European countries such as Britain and Italy. However, it is generally in line with the hostile posture that Moscow has adopted toward Bonn on a host of issues over the last two years. Both Soviet leaders and Soviet media commentators have been flailing the Bonn government periodically for its allegedly "revanchist" sympathies for over 15 months, and, in fact, both authoritative and semi-authoritative Soviet pronouncements have threatened Bonn for its stand on SDI. For example, the TASS report on the Genscher-Gromyko meeting in Vienna at the time of the 30th anniversary observance of the Austrian State Treaty in May recorded the Soviet side as warning Bonn that by participating in SDI it "undertakes along with the U.S. Administration the responsibility for the consequences of the ensuing destabilization of the existing military-strategic equilibrium." More recently, at a Moscow meeting commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Soviet-West German treaty last month, CPSU Central Committee International Information Department head Leonid Zamyatin was quoted by TASS as warning that support by "certain FRG circles" for INF deployments and for SDI "will undoubtedly lead to the most negative consequences for relations between the USSR and the FRG."